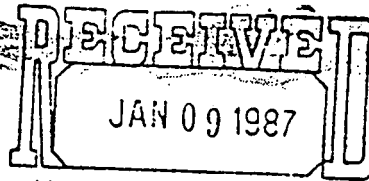




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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Office of the City Manager

January 7, 1987

Mr. Peter Blerbaum, Public Health Engineer  
Colorado Department of Health  
4210 East Eleventh Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80220

Dear Mr. Blerbaum:

During the meeting held at Westminster on December 18, 1986, you notified representatives of the Cities of Westminster, Thornton and Northglenn that Rockwell International would be performing a "test burn" of hazardous wastes using an existing incinerator. The City of Westminster has serious concerns regarding this proposed operation and strongly objects to this test burn.

The City believes that the test burn utilizes unproven technology and exposes the citizens of Westminster and the Denver metropolitan area to an unnecessary risk from both airborne exposure and exposure through the drinking water supply. Incineration of hazardous wastes should not be conducted in such close proximity to large population centers. Past test burns have usually occurred in isolated areas or at sea. Questions such as past use of incineration of mixed wastes and the fate of the radionuclides contained in the mixed waste must also be answered. Even if the test burn proved to be successful, the City of Westminster would not view incineration as a viable long-term solution to the problems at Rocky Flats. Representatives of Rocky Flats must realize that they are no longer "out in the country" and because development is virtually at their front door they must use extra precautions in dealing with their waste products.

The City of Westminster also finds it hard to believe that the plant would be able to begin test burns without a permit or public review process. From our understanding, the incinerator has not previously been used to dispose of mixed wastes and, therefore, the City believes they should not be able to commence incineration of mixed wastes claiming interim status. Furthermore, previous use does not justify continued use of an unproven technology which places hundreds of thousands of people under an unnecessary risk.

Mr. Bierbaum  
January 7, 1987

I would hope that the Health Department would do everything in its power to stop the test burning of mixed wastes at the Rocky Flats Plant before it is begun. To date, the Health Department has taken a strong stand in the cleanup of hazardous and mixed wastes at the plant and the City recommends that this aggressive action continue. Rocky Flats, however, must begin to realize their responsibilities with development continuing to move closer and the health and safety of so many lives at risk.

Since the test burn is scheduled to take place in February 1987, we request that a response to our concerns be received prior to that time. Thank you your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Bill Christopher*

Bill Christopher  
City Manager

cc: Frank Rozich, Deputy Director, Colorado State Health  
Department, Water Quality Control Division  
Kenneth L. Waesche, Director, Colorado State Health  
Department, Waste Management Division  
Neal Berlin, Arvada City Manager  
George DiCiero, Broomfield City Manager  
Jack Ethredge, Thornton City Manager  
David Hawker, Northglenn City Manager  
Ron Hellbusch, Director of Public Works and Utilities  
City of Westminster